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U.S. ABM System Will Use Spartan, Sprint Missiles

The Defense Department has published additional details about the Communist China-oriented antiballistic missile system announced by Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara in mid-September.

The system will be made up of 15 to 20 Spartan and/or Sprint missile batteries deployed throughout the United States. The Spartan will provide, for many years, area coverage for continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii against a Communist Chinese attack. Sprint missiles will be added to further defend the radars for the area defense and to defend most Minuteman ICBM sites.

Breakdown of the numbers and locations of Spartan and Sprint sites will be released after site construction begins.

Contracting Begins In Six Months

Contracting for the system will begin in about six months. The first battery is expected to be operational in the early 1970s—the entire system in five or six years.

Generally, said a DOD statement, the system will work this way: If missiles are launched against the U.S. radars will locate, track and provide discrimination data for the system. As this information is fed into computers, intercept times will be determined and defensive missiles will be fired at the appropriate time.

Spartan will generally engage targets outside the earth's atmosphere at several hundred miles range. Sprint will engage generally within the earth's atmosphere at about 15-25 miles range. Both missiles will be armed with nuclear warheads.

When intercepts are made, ground effects of these detonations will be negligible for blast and thermal and nuclear radiation. Lethal fallout will not be produced by the air bursts. Volume of fallout will be less than that produced by previous U.S. and Soviet nuclear testing in the atmosphere.

Throughout the operation, radars provide information on targets and command guidance for defensive missiles. Computers operate the radars, compute trajectories of incoming missiles, sort out the threat and provide guidance for defensive missiles. Missiles intercept the in-coming offensive missiles at long range for the area defense and at both long and short ranges for the areas defended by Sprint and Spartan.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE—Army Col. Paul G. Skowronek receives the Distinguished Service Medal from Lt. Gen. John J. Davis, Assistant Director, Weapons Evaluation and Control, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, during ceremonies at ADCA headquarters in Washington, D.C. Col. Skowronek was cited for outstanding performance of duty as Chief of the U.S. Military Liaison Mission to the Commander-in-Chief, Group of Soviet Forces, Potsdam, Germany, from June 1963 to May 1967.

DOD Housing Coordinator Completes Inspection Tour of California

DOD's National Off-Base Housing Coordinator, Brig. Gen. William E. Ekman, USA, made a late September familiarization visit to California to confer with senior military commanders, state officials and realtors.

DOD described the trip as an inspection tour.

Earlier this month, Gen. Ekman was named National Coordinator by Secretary of Defense McNamara who lauded his efforts since April in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., area, ranked lowest in the DOD survey of fair housing rentals open to military personnel.

Before summer in the Washington area, only 47 off-base rental facilities with 4,580 units were available on an equal opportunity basis, Mr. McNamara said, and by Sept. 1 the total had increased to 195 facilities and 19,500 units in Maryland.

The defense secretary also noted that California ranked next lowest on the DOD housing census.

Washington Memos

IMPROVED HELICOPTER performance to reduce losses and improve aircrew rescues in Vietnam is currently being worked on by Defense Research and Engineering. While speedy pilot pick-ups are made in South Vietnam, combat aircrew recovery in the North is complicated and requires increased hover performance and speed of rescue vehicles. As for reducing helicopter attrition, additional means such as better armor and directional ground fire detection equipment is an immediate goal.

ARMY LT. GEN. George R. Mather, Commander, III Corps and Ft. Hood, Tex., has announced that Ft. Hood has been designated a two-division post. Announcement was made in conjunction with celebration of 25th anniversary of Ft. Hood. Until announcement, Ft. Hood was official home of only one division, although two have been stationed there for a number of years. Divisions currently stationed there are 1st and 2nd Armored Divisions.

TENTH IN SERIES of conferences to review problems significant to Navy and aerospace industry will be held Nov. 8-9 in Washington, D.C. Conference, sponsored by Naval Air Systems Command, is limited to representatives from government and aerospace industry. Through these meetings, Navy hopes to improve management climate and processes involved in design, procurement and use of air weapons.

FIRST PLACE IN the Air Force's 1967 fire protection competition has been won by Keesler AFB, Miss., the first time an Air Training Command installation has scored that high since the program began in 1959. Second place went to SAC's Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., third to Military Airlift Command, Travis AFB, Calif.

MORE THAN 1,600 Army ROTC scholarships will be awarded for the 1968-69 school year, making the total above 4,000. Army said 800 new four-year scholarships are to be awarded on a competitive basis to outstanding high school graduates and approximately 845 two-year awards will be made to selected college students who have completed two years of ROTC training.

AIR FORCE MAJ. Gen. Ernest A. Pinson has been named Commandant, Air University's Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Gen. Pinson will relieve Maj. Gen. Victor R. Haugen, who will remain at Wright-Patterson AFB as Assistant to Commander, Air University. Gen. Pinson is currently Commander, Office of Aerospace Research, Washington, D.C.

RESULTS OF THE Air Force's FY68 Prior Service Reenlistment Program "are encouraging," according to personnel officials. Through August, 1,055 personnel reenlisted with 743 electing to retrain into skills needed in career force. Air Force said, "None of the retrainees have been eliminated from technical training for academic deficiency, which indicates that personnel of the highest quality are being reenlisted."

TWO AF TECH sergeants have received $1,800 for their suggestion to modify a radar trainer which resulted in an annual savings of at least $100,000 for the Air Force. TSgts. Howard West and Jacob Herr of the 3535th Navigator Training Wing, Mather AFB, Calif., made the suggestion.

AIR FORCE HAS begun to upgrade educational level of its instructors at Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala. An estimated 30 Air University staff members will study for their doctorate under the long-range program. Two instructors are currently enrolled in civilian universities and will return to Air University after graduation. Nine additional Air University officers are scheduled to be selected for further study under the program before end of fiscal year 1968.

AIR DEFENSE COMMAND has named 13th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Glasgow AFB, Mont., to represent command in world-wide Air Force competition with other fighter interceptor squadrons for coveted Hughes Trophy. Awarded annually by Hughes Aircraft Corp., trophy is awarded on basis of aircraft operational evaluation, weapons reliability, intercept capability and flying safety. ADC nominee will compete with squadrons from Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Air Forces Europe and Alaskan Air Command.

AIR FORCE HAS selected 139 officers for outstanding performance recognition in fiscal 1967. They are to receive commendations for outstanding efficiency in fulfilling transportation responsibilities.

HISTORY OF AVIATION highlights from the days of Kitty Hawk to supersonic flight are depicted in a special exhibition of watercolors now on display at the Smithsonian Institution. They are the work of John T. McCoy, 58-year-old colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

HARRY I. DAVIS, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for R&D is recipient of the 1968 Harry Diamond Memorial Prize of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

APPROXIMATELY 1800 PERSONS were airlifted from Travis AFB, Calif., during August marking the third highest in the 24-year history of the base. Passenger traffic for the month was exceeded only in July and August of 1966 during a national airlines strike.

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Defense Dept. Officials Deny Severe Combat Pilot Shortage

Department of Defense officials have denied there is a severe shortage of combat pilots, claiming "wartime pilot requirements are being met and will continue to be met."

In answer to a Senate Armed Services Preparedness Subcommittee report, Defense officials said there are almost 20 percent more qualified pilots than are needed to operate the forces, supervise flying activities and man training bases.

DOD also denied the commitment in Vietnam was a major factor in the pilot shortage, noting that the armed forces are meeting their pilot requirements in Southeast Asia while still giving the pilots combat tours of one year or less.

Officials said, however, that some wartime measures have been taken to reduce the number of pilots serving in non-flying jobs, and an expanded training program will boost the number of qualified pilots below the rank of colonel from the present 69,400 to 76,200 by 1969.

Officials said if the armed forces wish to put more pilots back into the cockpit, they can lengthen combat tours or call reserve pilots to active duty. They can also expand their training programs or call on those pilots holding ground jobs, the officials said.

Operation Deep Freeze '68 Slated for Oct. 2 Kickoff

Navy's Operation Deep Freeze '68 will begin Oct. 2 to move men and supplies to research stations in the Antarctic, and bring in replacements for the men who have been wintering-over.

The operation, headed by RAdm. J. Lloyd Abbot Jr., involves more than 2,500 men of the Navy, Coast Guard, Army and Air Force, and more than a dozen ships and aircraft.

Their major mission will be to provide supplies and transportation for civilian scientists who plan to conduct more than 60 scientific projects.

The first flight of the season will be made from Deep Freeze '68 advance headquarters in Christchurch, New Zealand, to McMurdo, the Navy's largest Antarctic station.

In November, Coast Guard ice-breakers are scheduled to cut channels through the ice to McMurdo for cargo ships and tankers. The following month, the ice-breakers will open sea lanes to Palmer, a coastal station inaccessable by air.

Navy has set no date for opening routes to Byrd and Plateau stations at the South Pole where 250 Navy men and civilians have been wintering-over for the past seven months. Routes to the inland areas will be opened "as soon as weather permits," Navy officials said.

VIETNAM CONFERENCE — Sen. Stuart Symington, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee (left), and Navy Adm. U. S. Grant Sharp, Commander-in-Chief Pacific (center), meet with Seventh Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. William W. Momyer at Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam. Both Sen. Symington and Adm. Sharp visited Vietnam to observe progress of current combat operations earlier this month.

Additional Overland Route to Alaska Seen Potentially Beneficial to Defense

Department of Defense has told Congress another overland route to Alaska would give potential benefits to national defense because of the strategic and logistic importance of transportation.

This DOD viewpoint was expressed at a Senate Public Works Subcommittee hearing on constructing and improving the Alaskan Highway from Haines, Alaska, to Dawson Creek, Canada.

Involved are 1,220 miles of road, with about 116 miles in Canada.

A DOD official pointed out, however, paving the entire length of the Alaskan Highway cannot be justified as a defense requirement. He said the economic justification for improvement is the prime and direct interest of the Department of Transportation.

Alaska is currently connected to the "south 48 states" by two overland routes. One is from Great Falls, Mont., through Canada 2,410 miles to Fairbanks, Alaska. The other is from Seattle, Wash., also through Canada to Prince Rupert and then by inland passage to the Alaskan Highway, a 2,210-mile distance.

DOD endorsed the Haines-Dawson Creek link because an adjacent POL pipeline would enable trucks to use the highway without carrying all the gasoline needed during an emergency.

Navy Plans Carrier Tests Of F-111B in FY68

Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research and Development), Robert A. Frosch, said carrier tests of the F-111B are planned to begin within the current fiscal year, not two years from now, as had been reported.

Secretary Frosch pointed out that requirements of the Air Force and Navy will, from all indications, be met by their respective versions of the F-111 aircraft.

He noted that the F-111B will be an effective means of fulfilling Navy requirements with an advantage over existing aircraft.

Navy officials said the F-111B is scheduled to join the fleet in the early 1970s.

Air Force's F-111A aircraft is presently undergoing further testing and is being used for training at Nellis AFB, Nev.

WWII Vets Home Loan Cutoff Date Extended

Home loan eligibility cutoff date for World War II veterans has been extended from July 25, 1967 to July 25, 1970. This, said the Veterans Administration, affords opportunity for more than 2.3 million WW II veterans to obtain home loans.

The extension provision, recently signed by the President, benefits veterans who had relatively long periods of service in WW II. Also, all WW II veterans discharged for service-connected disabilities will have until July 25, 1970 to use their GI loan benefits. Eligible widows of WW II veterans or servicemen whose deaths were due to military service receive the same extension.

The VA will recompute expiration dates for veterans whose Certification of Eligibility expiration date was July 25, 1967. The new legislation does not extend eligibility which expired before July 25, 1967.

MERITORIOUS CITATION — Navy VAdm. Charles K. Duncan, Commander Second Fleet, receives the Legion of Merit from Adm. Ephraim P. Holmes, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, during ceremonies aboard the USS Springfield. Adm. Duncan was cited for "exceptionally meritorious service" while Commander Amphibious Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, from June 1965 to May 1967.

Army R&D Team Develops Automated Mapping Device

Army has unveiled automatic equipment which produces a map from an aerial photograph in 24 hours—as against the six-to-24-months previously required.

Corps of Engineers' new pride is named Universal Automatic Map Compilation Equipment (UNAMACE). It not only provides the Army with vitally needed maps faster than before possible, it requires only a fraction of the skilled manpower. Maps also have greater accuracy and consistency.

The developers, Edward R. DeMeter, Kent T. Yoritomo, John D. Mayer, Edward F. Burzynski and Morton Stromberg, employees of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Laboratories at Ft. Belvoir, Va., received Army's R & D Achievement Award for their effort.

DOD Gives Grace Period To Ready Reservists Who Change Residence

Department of Defense is giving ready reservists who are not meeting their obligation because they have changed residence 60 days grace to join another reserve unit near their new homes.

This first change to DOD Directive 1215.13 is limited to moves within the United States, its possessions and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Otherwise, such individuals will be required to serve on active duty until they have completed a total of 24 months as stipulated by President Johnson's Aug. 4 Executive Order.

Reserve units were told to warn personnel of the consequences if they are planning to change residence to overseas areas other than American possessions or Puerto Rico.

DOD policy for unsatisfactory reserve participation is to call up those who either are unable or fail to participate in Ready Reserve units, who have not served 24 months on active duty for training, and who have not filled their reserve obligations.

Called up reservists under this policy will be required to serve on active duty until they have completed 24 months. Prior active service, including summer camps, counts toward the total.

MAC C-141 Modification Increases Cargo Payload

Military Airlift Command is modifying its all-jet C-141 transport aircraft with crew rest platforms to increase the number of cargo pallets from nine to 10.

The additional cargo room comes from the space where crew members used to stow their personal baggage and survival gear.

The new crew platform is suspended above the cargo compartment. It has two beds as well as room for equipment.

Local air base maintenance shops are constructing the platforms.

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